(b) if so, the reasons for not providing these islanders with adhoc and temporary incentive when they are also managing double establishments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is possible that some of the officers/staff settled in one island when posted to another island, within the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, may have to maintain double establishments. The rationale for providing the incentive to officers in banks posted from outside to difficult/remote centers is that the difficulties faced by an officer from outside/mainland would be qualitatively as well as quantitatively greater than the hardship faced by a local officer. The Supreme Court has upheld this view in CA No. 3107/1991 (1992-I-LLN-63) observing that providing such benefit cannot be treated as discriminatory. Besides, providing a local officer/staff with the adhoc and temporary incentive within the Andaman & Nicobar Islands would result in similar demands by officers/ staff of Government of India and all other sectors, who are presently employed locally, in any area, region or a State. Incidentally, officers/staff from the mainland are posted in the Andaman & Nicobar island primarily, because of lack of availability of staff from the local populace.

Theft and Loot in Banks

†1612. SHRI JANARDAN DWIVEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of bank robberies, dacoities and theft of articles from bank lockers reported during the last one year, particularly in Delhi;

(b) the number of cases in which bank employees have been found involved; and

(c) what concrete steps have been taken by Government to check bank robberies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported 150 cases of bank robberies and dacoities during the year ended March 2005. Three cases of bank robberies have been reported in Delhi during this period. As regards theft from lockers, only one incident was reported

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

during this period, which took place at Punjab National Bank, Nauroji Nagar Branch, New Delhi.

(b) The data reporting system of RBI does not generate such information. However, PNB has reported that the police investigation in the bank locker theft at Delhi revealed involvement of a staff member who has been suspended and disciplinary action has been initiated against him.

(c) The security measures implemented by public sector banks are reviewed in the State Level Security Committee meetings convened periodically by RBI. The Committee takes stock of the security environment in the States and requisite instructions are given to banks. Banks have classified their branches depending on the risk factors involved and posted armed guards and installed anti-burglary/robbery devices, etc. wherever necessary. As regards robberies and theft from lockers, RBI has issued instructions to banks.

Parameters of fiscal Reforms for World Bank Assistance

1613. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank's assistance programme to developmental projects in Indian States are linked to certain parameters of fiscal reforms;

(b) if so, what are these parameters;

(c) whether Government have laid a fiscal reforms road map for respective State Governments to enable them to avail of World Bank funds for various developmental project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of the (a) above.

(c) and (d) The loan assistance for developmental projects is not linked to any parameters of reforms and therefore no road maps have been laid for States in this regard. However, in the case of States availing of Structural Adjustment Loans (SAL) from the World Bank, States are required, *inter alia,* to adhere to their commitments to fiscal reforms.